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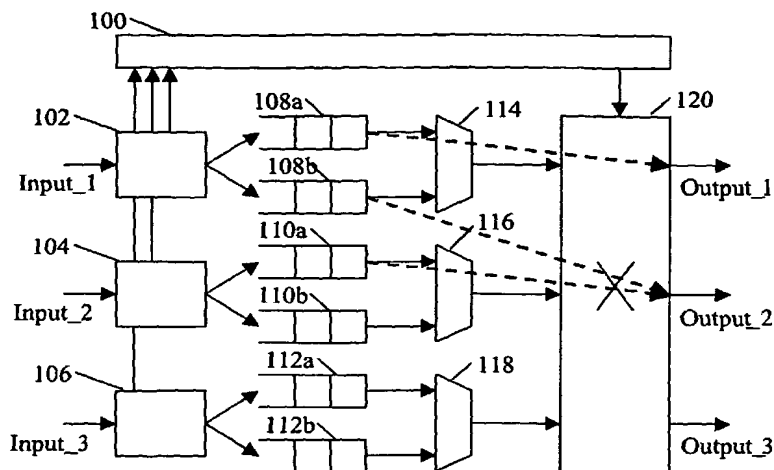
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(54) Title: INTEGRATED CIRCUIT AND METHOD FOR AVOIDING STARVATION OF DATA



(57) Abstract: The invention provides a router which can be deployed in a network on an integrated circuit. The router is capable of processing input data belonging to multiple traffic classes. The router can further guarantee, under admissible cost, that all input data are processed and output adequately at an acceptable cost. The invention relies on the perception that the problem of contention is constituted by two more specific problems: input contention and output contention. The problem of input contention does not occur anymore, because the switch comprised in the router is designed such that it can serve multiple queues coupled to input ports simultaneously. The problem of starvation, caused by a continuous preference of high priority traffic to low priority traffic, is solved by allowing to serve queues containing data from low priority traffic classes simultaneously with queues containing data from high priority traffic classes.

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